

# MIGRATION



**WOW Day 3: Ospreys can't be  
seen in the UK all year round.  
Find out where they go in  
today's pack!**

# WHEN ARE OSPREYS IN THE UK?

Ospreys can't be seen all year round in the UK. This is because they are a **migratory species** and spend only part of their year in the UK.

Other species of birds also migrate, some of which you may be familiar with like swifts and swallows.



Ospreys can be seen in the UK between mid-March and early September. Their main priority during these months is to **breed** and successfully raise a **brood** of chicks.

Those ospreys which are returning to a nest, that have bred for several years, will tend to return sooner than those birds who are unattached. This could be to reclaim their nest and see off any other **competition** or to make sure the nest is ready for eggs to be laid.



# WINTERING GROUNDS



Ospreys have to migrate to warmer countries for the winter months because the weather in the UK may become too cold for them. If it becomes cold then there is a risk that water bodies, such as rivers and lakes, will freeze, making it very difficult for ospreys to catch the fish they need to survive.

So, once the breeding season comes to an end the ospreys start to leave their UK homes and return to where they spend the winter months. Usually, the adult breeding females will leave first, followed by the juveniles and last but not least the adult breeding males. Unlike other bird species that migrate, such as geese, ospreys don't travel as a family unit, which means that juvenile ospreys have to navigate to a suitable wintering ground all by themselves!

But where do they go? To give a few examples....



Gambia



Senegal



Southern Spain



# THREATS



Ospreys from the UK usually spend the winter months along the coast of west African countries.

That could be over 5,000km from their breeding grounds in the UK, roughly 3 to 4 weeks of travel!

Due to the huge distance ospreys can travel they are faced with many hazards along the way. Some are natural and some are caused by people.

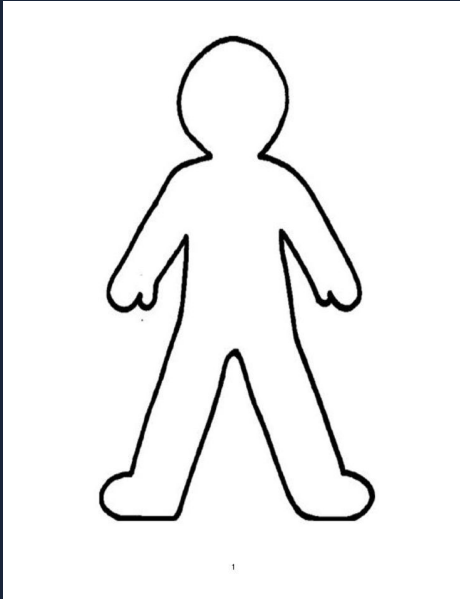


Not too far away from home and ospreys will quite likely come across the Bay of Biscay, of the west coast of France. If they are not careful, strong winds and bad weather can blow them out to sea.

Once they have travelled through France and Spain, ospreys will cross the Mediterranean Sea and come across the Atlas Mountains, which are tricky to navigate through.







Another problem ospreys may come across is persecution. Though ospreys are legally protected in the UK, other countries have different laws when it comes to shooting wildlife.

Part of the ospreys journey to Senegal, Gambia or another country, means they have to cross part of the Sahara Desert. In the desert, there is a lack of water, therefore a lack of fish - food for the osprey.



In the Sahara Desert, trees and other potential perches for ospreys, are close to the ground, leaving them vulnerable to **predation** by species such as eagle owls and jackals.

When fishing, there is a risk that ospreys can become tangled up in old, discarded fishing nets.



Did you know: one of Rutland's females who used to have a satellite tracker, completes her migration from Senegal in just over 2 weeks!

# HOW DO WE KNOW WHERE OSPREYS GO?

These days we are particularly dependent on technology, which we use in our day to day lives.

Thanks to brilliant developments an important piece of technology, called **satellite trackers** help us to follow the lives of some of our ospreys, by sending **data** back to us every hour.

We gain a rare insight into individuals' movements when it comes to foraging habits, as well as the path of their migration.



(C) Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust



## HOW ARE THEY FITTED?

Satellite trackers are carefully fitted to an osprey, a bit like a rucksack, using a special teflon harness, which is made up of biodegradable material.

## WHAT DATA DO WE GET?

1. **Location** - we can pinpoint the exact place an osprey is!
2. **Speed**
3. **Direction of travel** - we can tell whether an osprey is flying north, east, south or west.
4. **Altitude** - how high an osprey is flying.

Ospreys are creatures of habit and will follow the same routes for their migrations year after year, sometimes visiting the same feeding spots and even perching on the same trees overnight.

# KEY WORDS

**Migration:** the movement of birds and other animals from one place to another.

**Satellite Tracker:** a special piece of technology, which tells us where a bird is.

**Data:** information.

**Competition:** this can occur between the same species, or between different species. It is competition for key resources such as food, shelter or a mate.

**Threats:** any dangers the osprey may face.



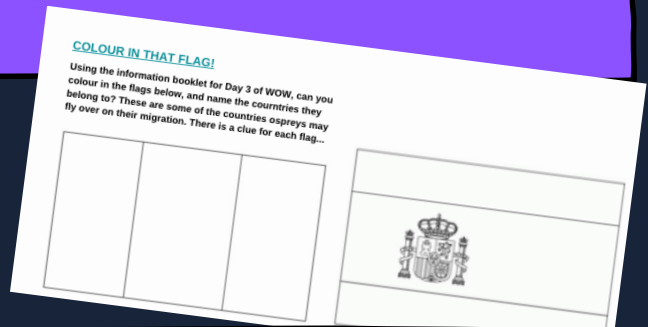
Did you know: In 1989, a pioneering project studying the Wandering Albatross, used satellite tracking for the first time, which allowed researchers to gain a fantastic understanding of the foraging habits of this species.



# ACTIVITIES

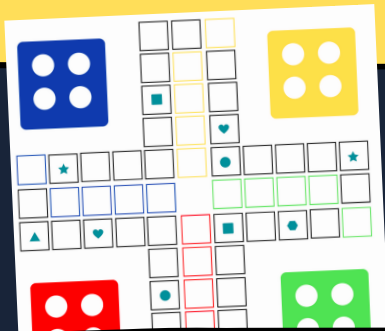
## COLOUR IN THAT FLAG

Colour in and name the flags for some of the countries UK ospreys will cross whilst on migration. You may have to do some further research!



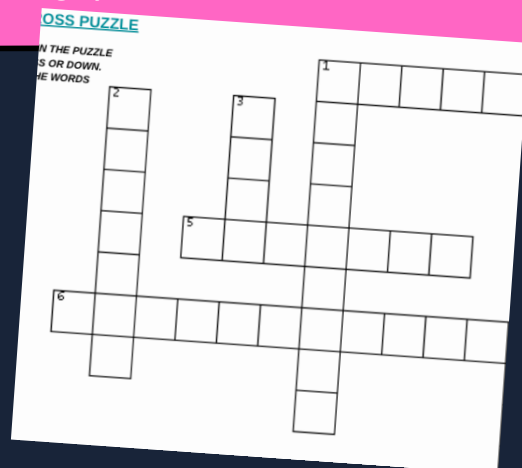
## LUDO MIGRATION BOARD GAME

Get the whole family involved with a board game! Get all your counters to safety whilst being careful not to come across any hazards.



## MIGRATION CRISS CROSS PUZZLE

Using the clues provided, can you fill in the gaps?



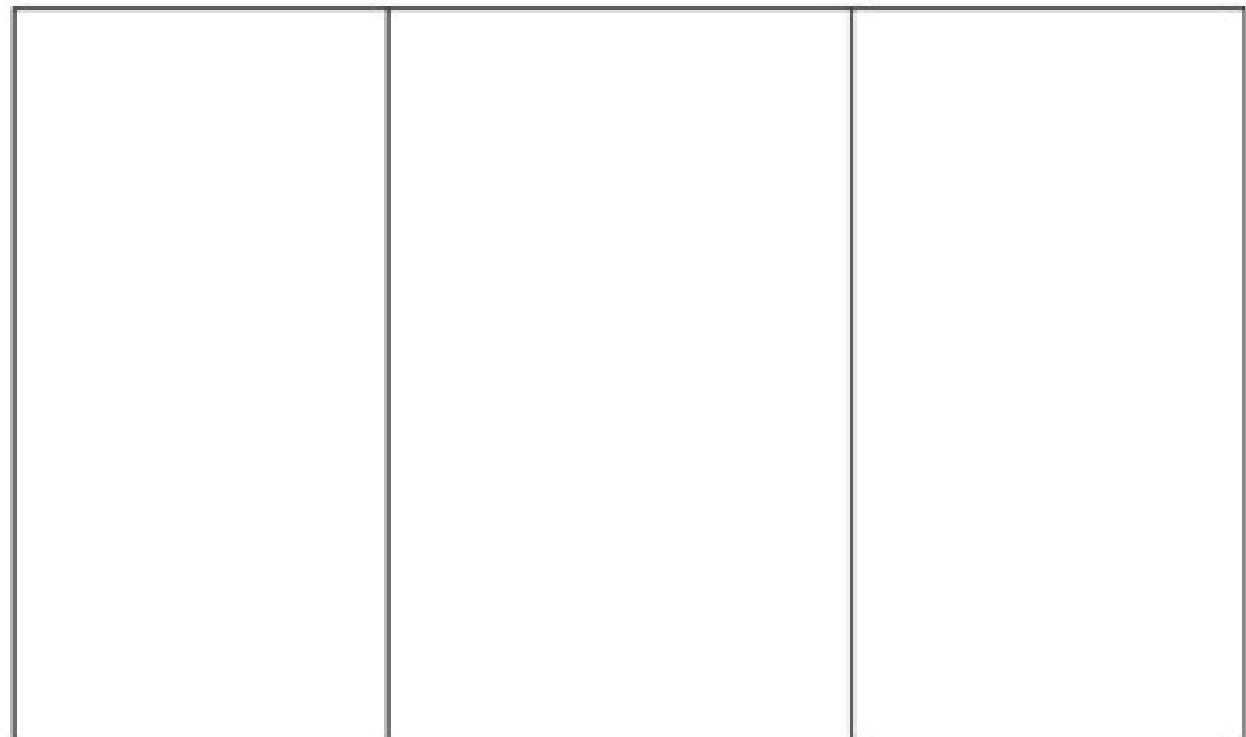
### Contact Us:

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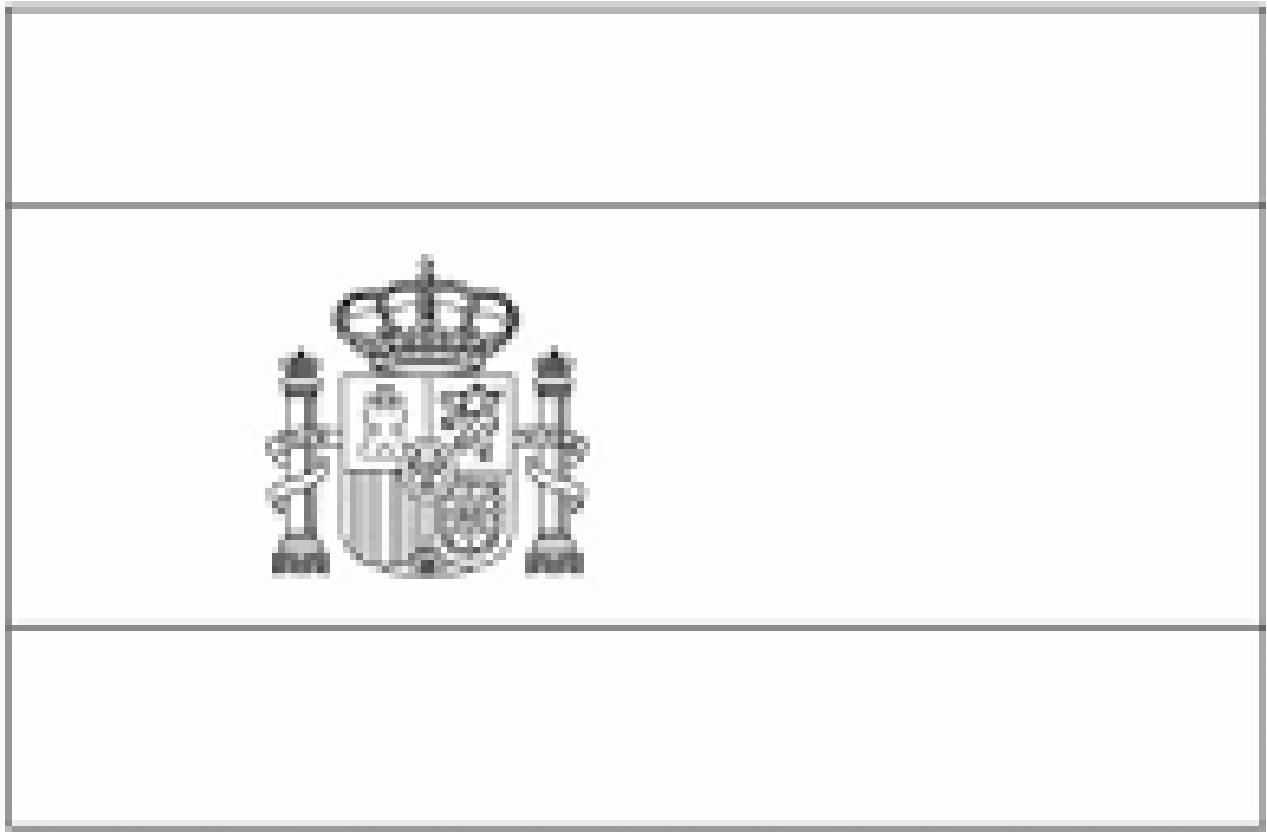
COLOUR IN THAT FLAG!

Using the information booklet for Day 3 of WOW, can you colour in the flags below, and name the countries they belong to? These are some of the countries ospreys may fly over on their migration. There is a clue for each flag...



**CLUE:** The country the other side of the English Channel.

Name:



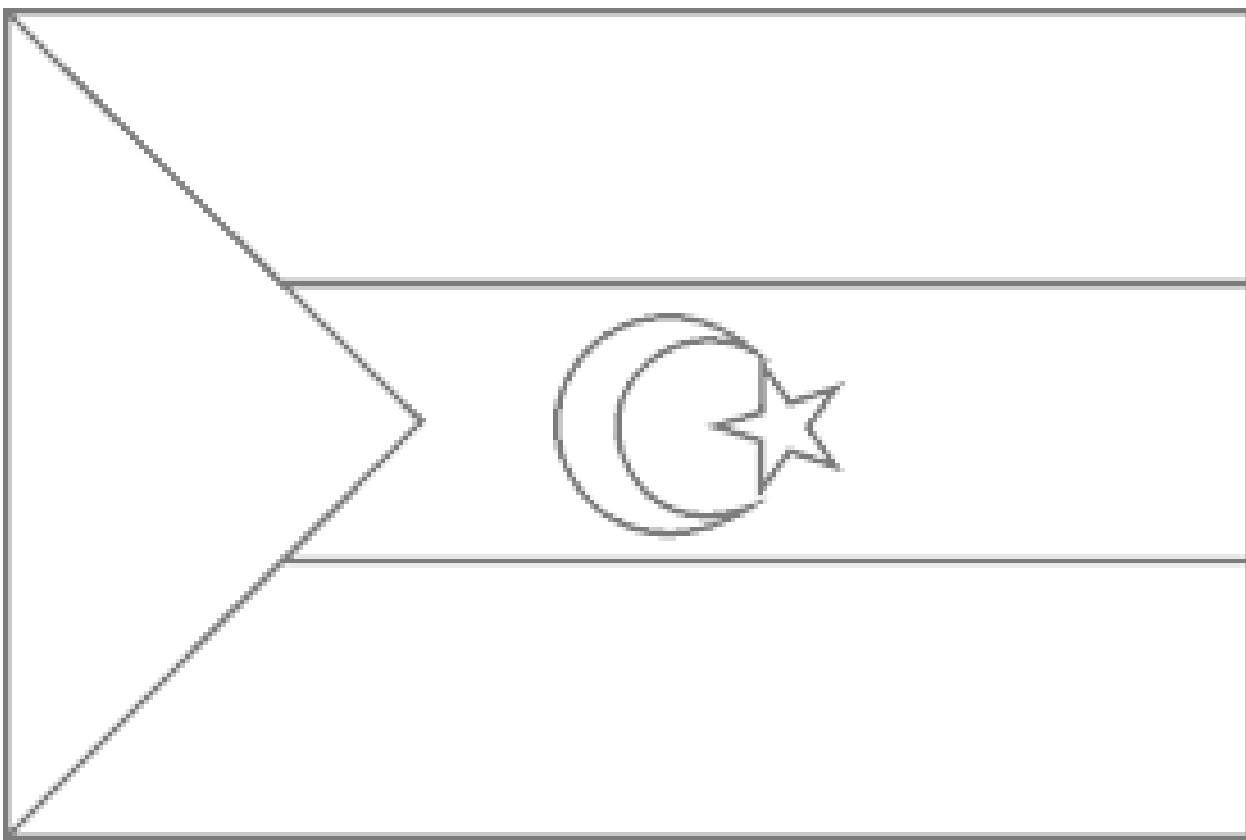
**CLUE:** The capital of this country is Madrid.

Name:



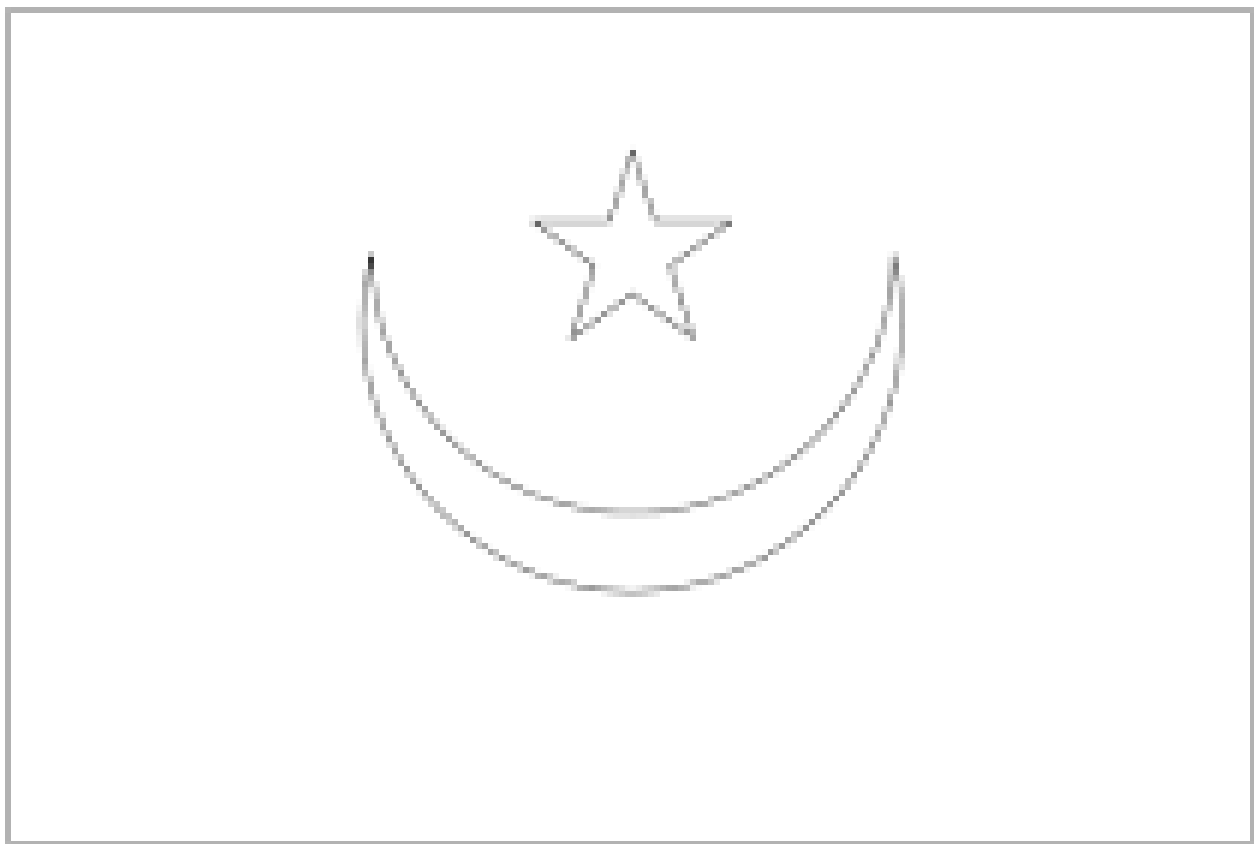
**CLUE:** This flag belongs to the first African country, the other side of the Mediterranean Sea.

Name:



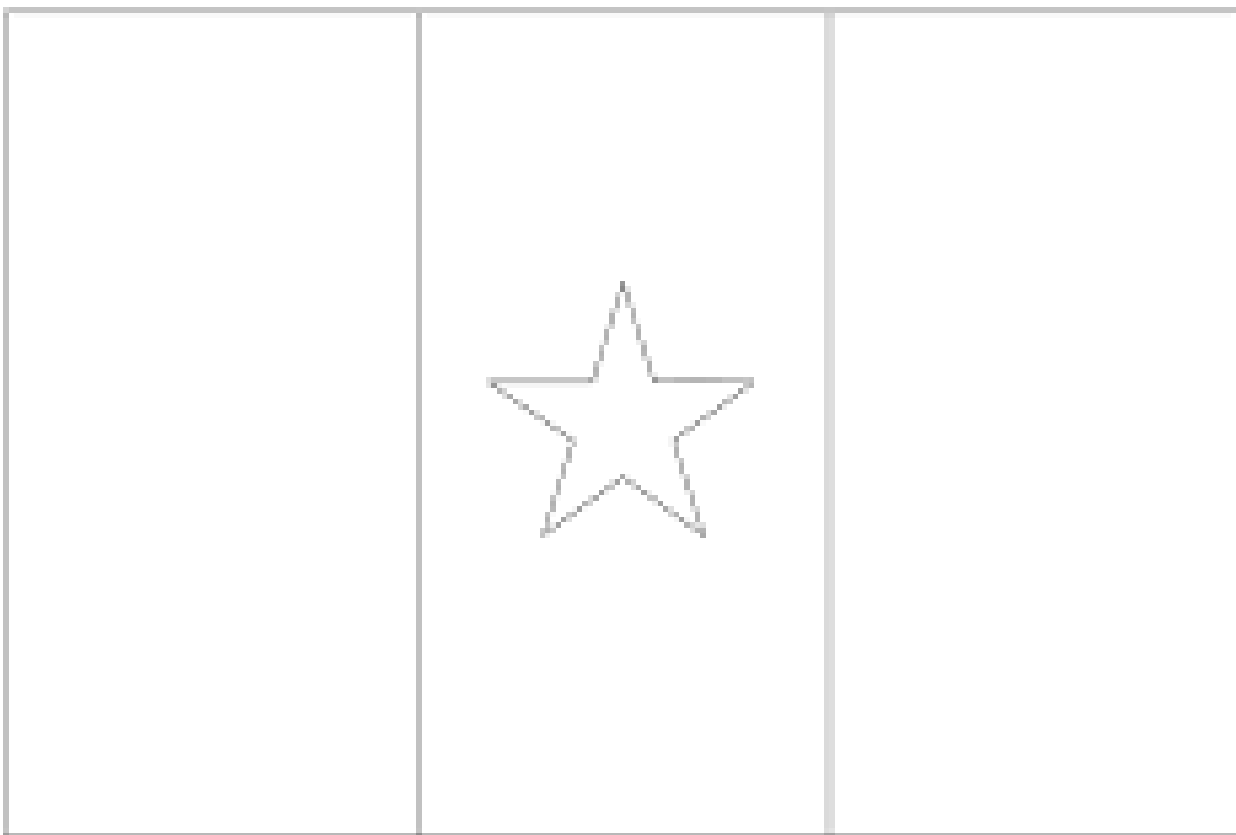
**CLUE:** This country shares its name with a famous large desert in Africa. But is it northern, southern, eastern or western?

Name:



**CLUE:** This country shares a border with 4 other African countries.

Name:



**CLUE:** This country could either be the wintering grounds for UK ospreys or another country they fly over.

Name:







# LUDO OSPREY MIGRATION BOARD GAME

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO PLAY:

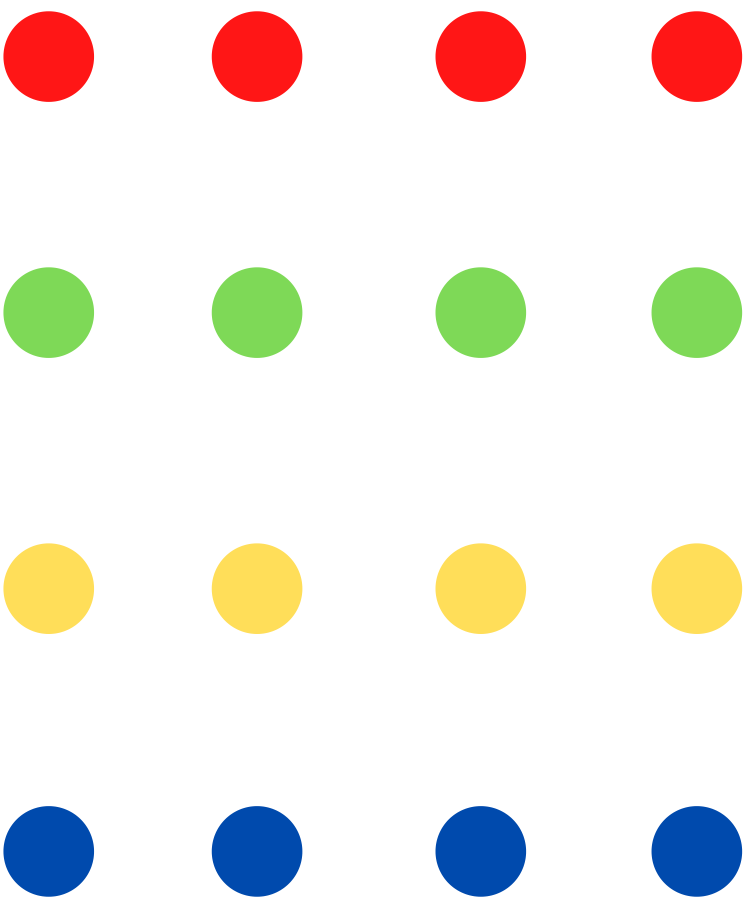
- Minimum 2 players
- Dice
- 4x counters - you can print off the circles provided on this sheet and cut them out.

## RULES:

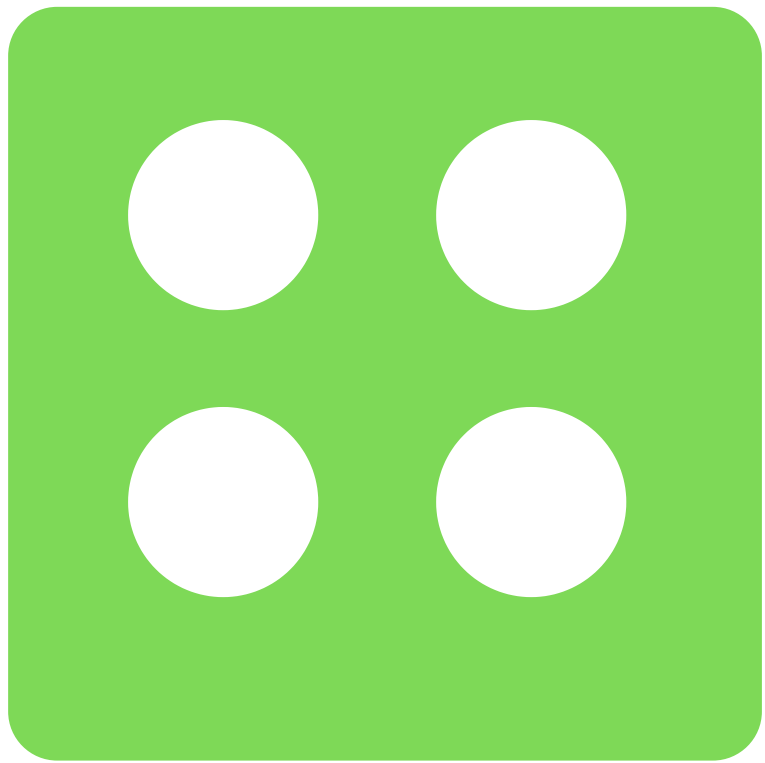
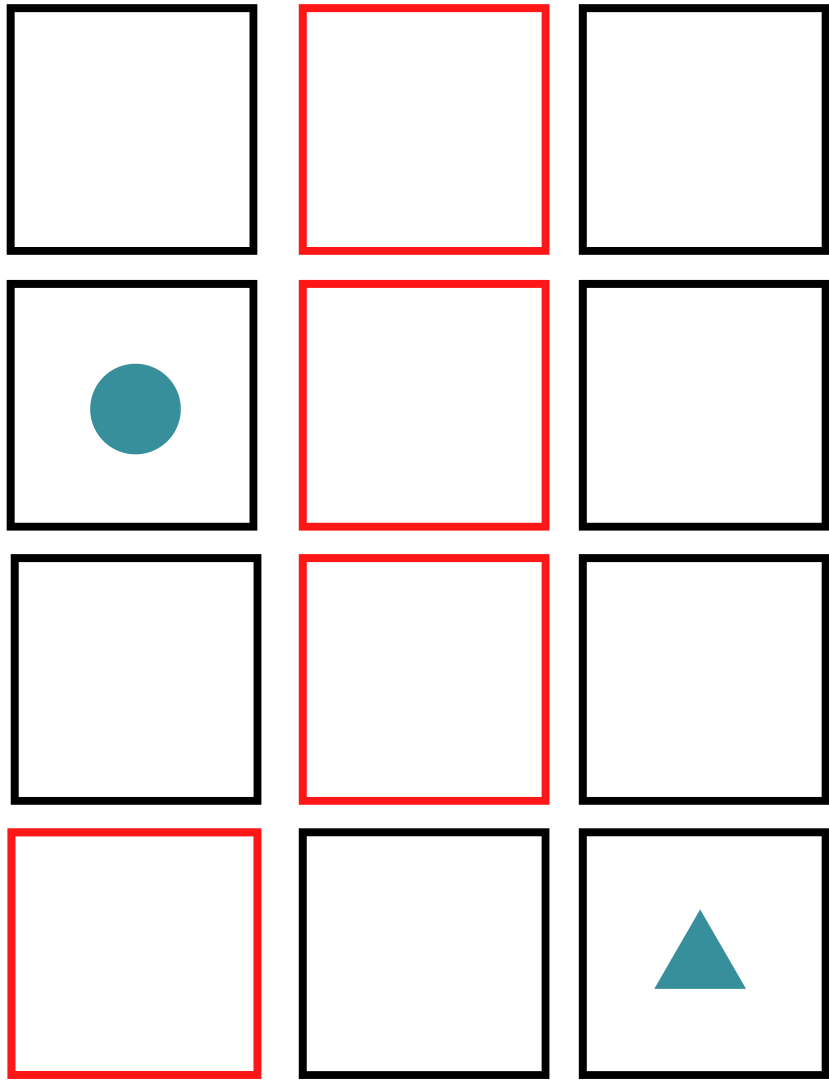
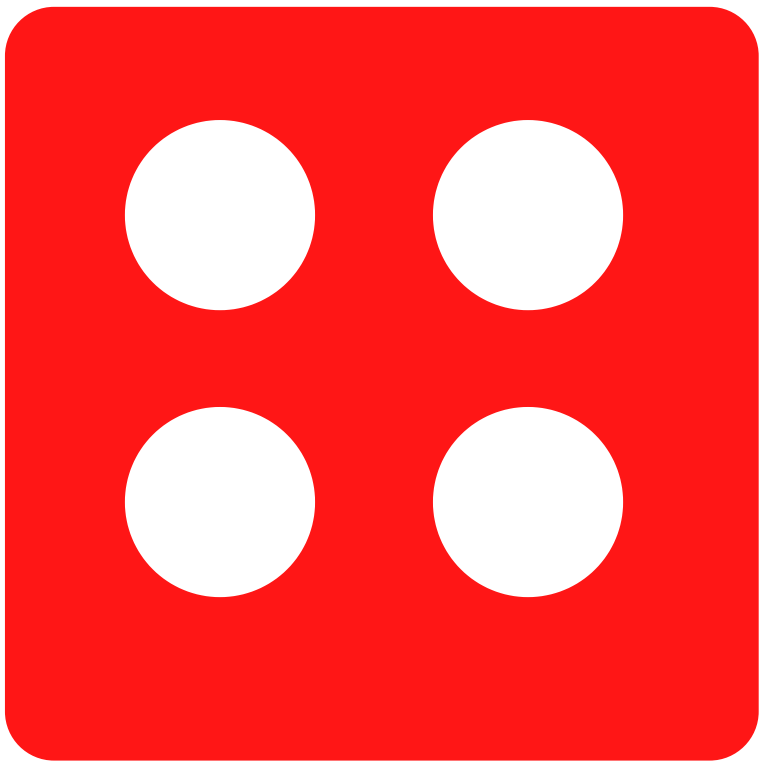
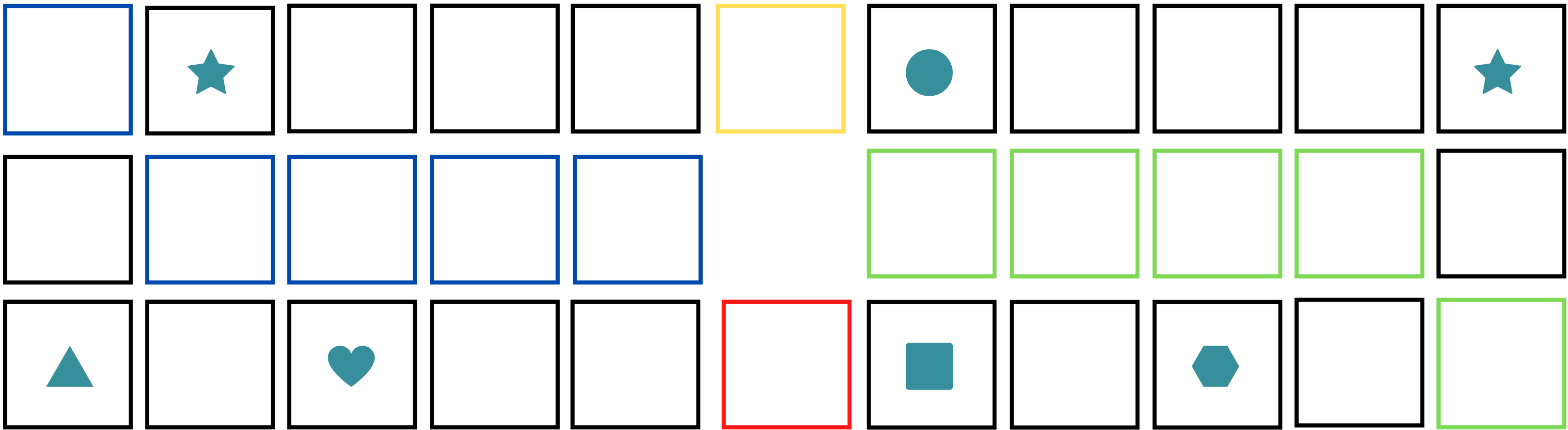
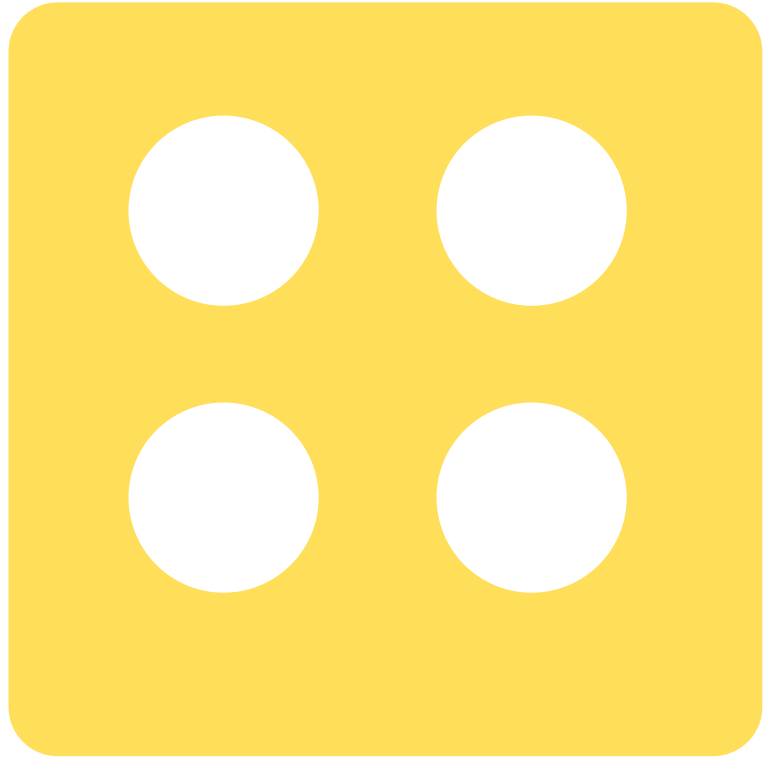
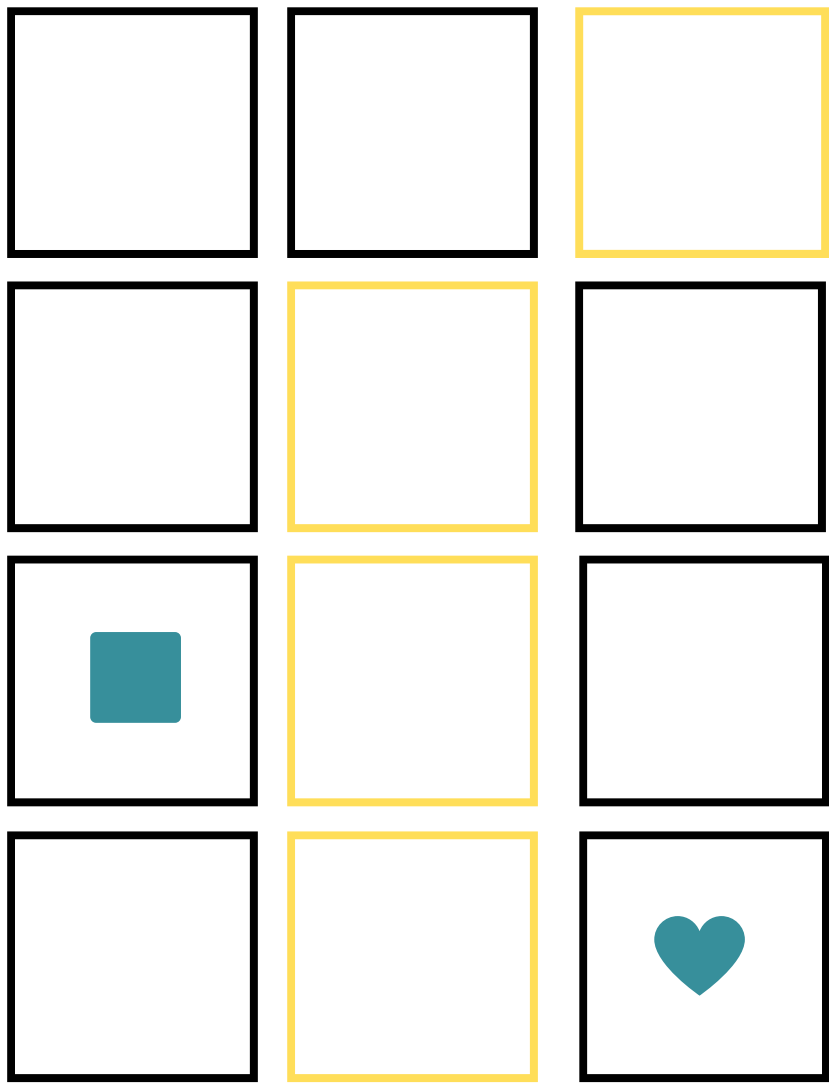
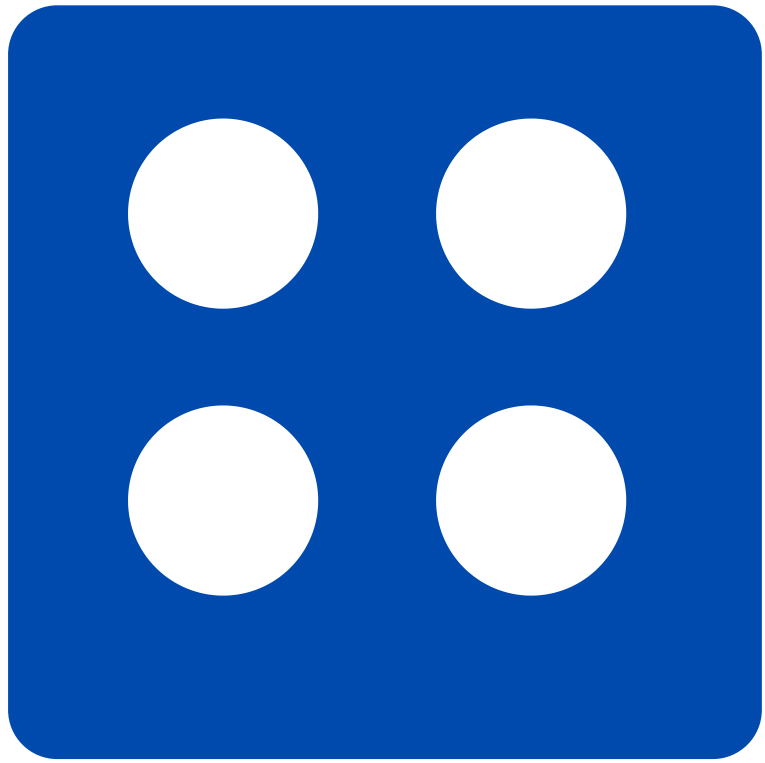
- Players take turns in a clockwise order; highest throw of the die starts.
- Each throw, the player decides which piece to move. A piece simply moves in a clockwise direction around the track given by the number thrown. If no piece can legally move according to the number thrown, play passes to the next player.
- A throw of 6 gives another turn.
- A player must throw a 6 to move a piece from the starting circle onto the first square on the track. The piece moves 6 squares around the circuit beginning with the appropriately coloured start square (and the player then has another turn).
- If a piece lands on a piece of a different colour, the piece jumped upon is returned to its starting circle.
- If a piece lands upon a piece of the same colour, this forms a block. This block cannot be passed or landed on by any opposing piece.
- The winner is the first person to get all 4 counters to the home.
- If a piece lands upon a square with symbols on the following instructions apply:

-  You have had a very successful fishing trip. Roll the die again.
-  You have come across some bad weather. Miss a turn.
-  The wind is blowing in the right direction. Go on 4 spaces.
-  You have had too many failed fishing attempts. Go back 4 spaces.
-  You are being shot at! Go back to the start.
-  You come across an artificial perch that someone has put up for you to rest. Go on 6 spaces.

## COUNTERS:

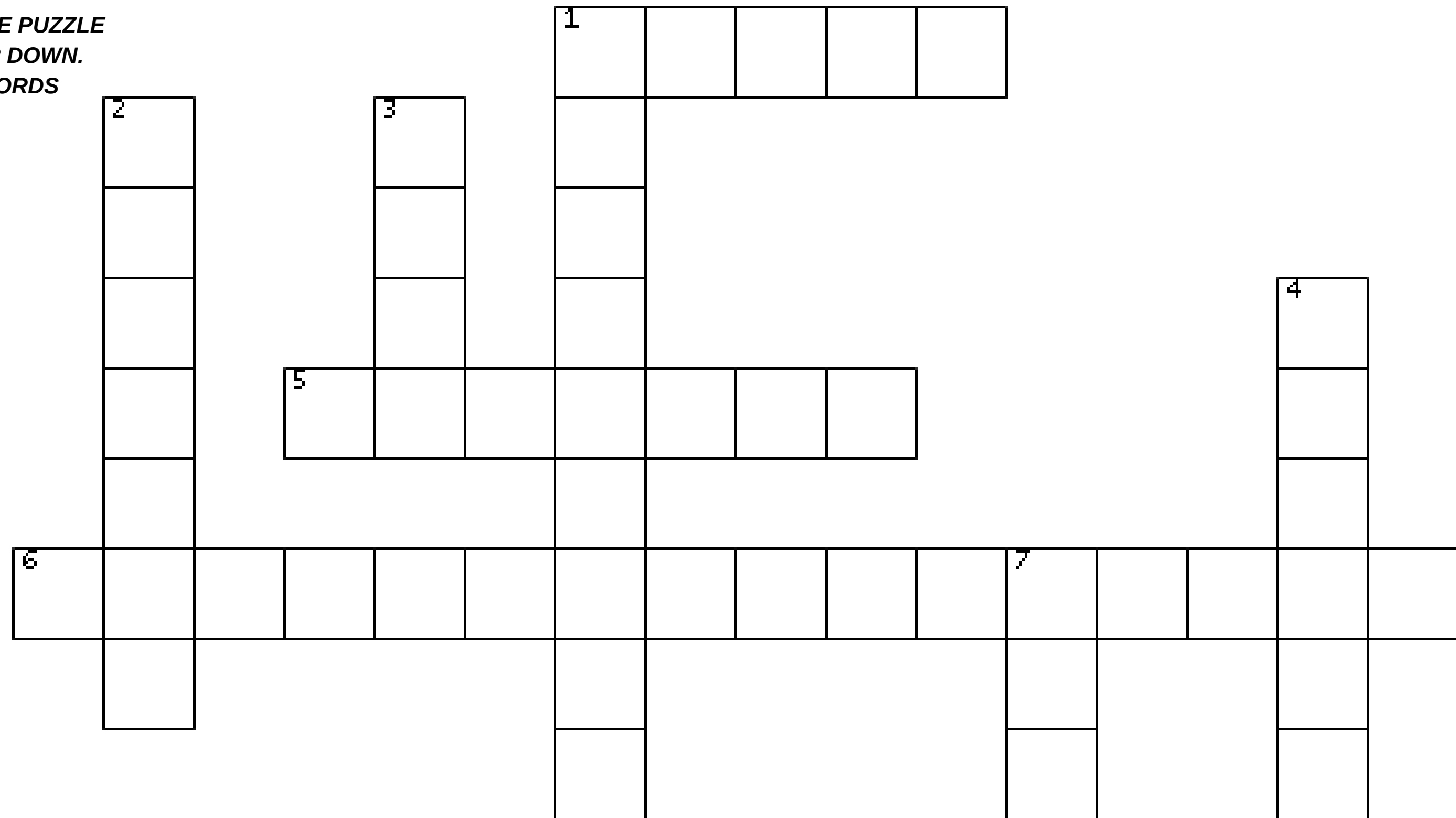






## MIGRATION CRISS CROSS PUZZLE

**USING THE CLUES BELOW FILL IN THE PUZZLE ABOVE. WORDS CAN GO ACROSS OR DOWN. LETTERS ARE SHARED WHEN THE WORDS INTERSECT.**



**ACROSS**

1. The month during which ospreys begin to return to the UK.
5. Risks ospreys may come across during their travel.
6. A piece of technology used which tells us where an osprey is.

## DOWN

1. The name given to the journey an osprey takes in the spring and autumn.
2. Many of the UK ospreys spend the winter months here.
3. Information we receive from those birds fitted with a special piece of technology.
4. Ospreys are in the UK for this reason.
7. How high an osprey is flying.